

Between The Lines Radio Newsmagazine
squeaky wheel productions

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 4, 2010

Press Contacts:

Scott Harris (203) 451-6799

Anna Manzo (203) 268-8446

Public Forum: "Democracy vs. the Propaganda State: Why We Must Support Independent Media and Build a Real Alternative to Corporate Power"

John Nichols, The Nation magazine Washington correspondent and co-author of the new book, "The Death and Life of American Journalism: The Media Revolution that will Begin the World Again" will discuss the crisis in U.S. media at a June 19th public forum in New Haven, CT

The Nation magazine's Washington correspondent, John Nichols, is coming to New Haven, CT's Center Church on the Green's Parish House on Saturday, June 19th, where he'll discuss his new book, **"The Death and Life of American Journalism: The Media Revolution that will Begin the World Again,"** co-authored with Robert McChesney, which examines the crisis in U.S. journalism and proposes a rescue plan that looks back to our Founding Fathers to save the nation's endangered daily newspapers, investigative reporting and democracy.

In this public forum titled, **"Democracy vs. the Propaganda State: Why We Must Support Independent Media and Build a Real Alternative to Corporate Power,"** Nichols will argue that journalism should be seen as a public good, much like education and defense spending. He believes the federal government should intervene to assist the ailing newspaper industry -- plagued by closings and layoffs -- as a free press and an informed electorate are among the most important elements in a well-functioning democracy. Democratic nations economically equivalent to ours, such as Canada, Britain, Ireland, the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Germany, Austria, Denmark, Switzerland, Sweden etc. spend between \$8 billion to \$45 billion on public media and other subsidies. The U.S. government spends only \$400 million.

The forum, sponsored by locally produced Between The Lines Radio Newsmagazine, will be held from 2 -4 p.m. Saturday, June 19th at the Center Church on the Green Parish House (Pratt Hall), 311 Temple St., New Haven, CT. John Nichol's talk will be preceded by a press conference between 1 and 1:45 p.m. at the Parish House. A Q&A session with the audience will follow Nichols' talk along with a booksigning and reception with light refreshments.

John Nichols comes to this Connecticut event after serving as the keynote speaker at The International Federation of Journalists 2010 World Congress, May 25-28, 2010, in Cadiz, Spain where they launched the IFJ report on the future of journalism.

John Nichols and Robert McChesney are co-founders of the nation's largest media reform organization, Free Press www.freepress.net. Free Press works to promote diverse and independent media ownership, strong public media, quality journalism, and universal access to communications.

Net proceeds from this public forum will benefit Squeaky Wheel Productions, nonprofit distributor of Between The Lines Radio Newsmagazine, broadcast on 50 radio stations in the U.S. including WPKN 89.5 FM in Bridgeport and WESU 88.1 FM in Middletown. Suggested donation is \$15, \$5 for students. Seating is limited, advance reservations recommended. For tickets or more information call 1-(203) 268-8446 or visit www.squeakywheel.net or www.btlonline.org. Media sponsors of this event are WPKN Radio 89.5 FM, The New Haven Advocate and Fairfield Weekly.

(end)